

has recommended in a recent publication⁸ statistical procedures designed to minimize the reduction of fecundity resulting from the early or late starting of contraceptive practice. Setting up criteria for the inclusion of couples in studies of the effectiveness of contraceptive methods, the Committee recommends that "at the time of prescription, the interval since the most recent pregnancy should not exceed six months without contraception or five years with contraception" and further that periods of "post-partum amenorrhea should . . . be omitted" from the computation of pregnancy rates. Application of these rules would result in an approximation of the maximum pregnancy potential, especially if the average period of use of contraception is sufficiently long. The Committee recommends that it should be at least one year.

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